

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) An optical data storage medium for recording by means of a focused radiation beam having a wavelength  $\lambda$  and entering through an entrance face of the medium during recording, at least comprising:

- a substrate, with a surface including a guide groove with a depth  $g$ ,

- a stack of layers on the substrate, which stack includes:

- a reflective layer of a material having a complex refractive index  $\tilde{n}_{MA} = n_{MA} - i \cdot k_{MA}$  at the wavelength  $\lambda$ ,  $n_M$  denoting the real part and  $k_M$  denoting the imaginary part of  $\tilde{n}_{TA}$ , present adjacent the surface of the substrate in substantial conformity with the surface, -a transparent layer through which the radiation beam is incident during recording and of a material having a complex refractive index  $\tilde{n}_{TA} = n_{TA} - i \cdot k_{TA}$ ,

- a recording layer of a material having a complex refractive index  $\tilde{n}_{RA} = n_{RA} - i \cdot k_{RA}$  and having a thickness  $d_{RG}$  in the groove portion and a thickness  $d_{RL}$  in the portion between grooves, being interposed between the reflective layer and the transparent layer,

characterized in that the following requirements are fulfilled:

$0.25/(3.0 + k_{M\lambda}^2) + 0.17 < g \cdot n_T/\lambda < 0.22/(3.0 + k_{M\lambda}^2) + 0.45$  and  
 $0.2 < (d_{RG} - d_{RL})/g < 0.5$  and  $0 < d_{RG} < \lambda/n_{R\lambda}$  and  $k_{R\lambda} < 0.5$  and  $2 < n_{R\lambda} < 2.6$ .

2. (original) An optical data storage medium as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the reflective layer is a metal layer having a thickness  $d_M > 20$  nm and  $g \cdot n_T/\lambda < 0.50$ .

3. (original) An optical data storage medium as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $0.25 < g \cdot n_T/\lambda$  and  $k_{M\lambda} < 0.5$ .

4. (currently amended) An optical data storage medium as claimed in ~~anyone of Claims 1-3~~claim 1, wherein  $\lambda$  has a value selected from the range of 650 - 665 nm and  $k_{R\lambda} \leq 0.2$  at this value of  $\lambda$ .

5. (original) An optical data storage medium as claimed in Claim 4, wherein in nanometers:

$$0.5 \cdot d_{RG} + 42 < g < 0.5 \cdot d_{RG} + 125 \text{ and } 70 < d_{RG} < 130 .$$

6. (original) An optical data storage medium as claimed in Claim 5, wherein  $100 \text{ nm} < g < 160 \text{ nm}$ .

7. (currently amended) An optical data storage medium as claimed in ~~anyone of Claims 1-3~~claim 1, wherein  $\lambda$  has a value selected from the range of 400 - 410 nm and  $k_{RA} \leq 0.20$  at this value of  $\lambda$ .

8. (original) An optical data storage medium as claimed in Claim 7, wherein in nanometers:

$$0.5*d_{RG} + 20 < g < 0.75*d_{RG} + 95 \text{ and } 30 \text{ nm} < d_{RG} < 80 \text{ nm}.$$

9. (original) An optical data storage medium as claimed in Claim 8, wherein  $70 \text{ nm} < g < 110 \text{ nm}$ .

10. (currently amended) Use of an optical data storage medium as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~claim 1, in an optical data storage medium recording/reading device suitable for tracking of the portion of the guide groove of an optical data storage medium nearest to the plane of incidence of the focused radiation beam.